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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 01748 021254Z

51
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /061 W
---------- 069555
R 021210Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5150
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LI, SF
SUBJECT: GOL DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

CAPETOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

ON APRIL 1 I ASKED FONMIN DENNIS FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF HIS TRIPS TO 16 AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOLLOWING PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IN MONROVIA. DENNIS SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE A PROMPT AND FULL ACCOUNT OF TOLBERT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH VORSTER. TOLBERT FELT IT ESSENTIAL THAT HE REPORT TO OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. DENNIS SAID IN GENERAL REACTION AMONG OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE WAS POSITIVE. IT COULD BE FORETOLD IN ADVANCE THAT CERTAIN LEADERS (SEKOU TOURE, GOWON, BOUMEDIENE) WOULD BE OPPOSED. HOWEVER, NO ONE QUESTIONED THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF TOLBERT IN UNDERTAKING HIS INITIATIVE. NO ONE HAD FELT THAT LIBERIA WAS SEEKING AID, TRADE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FAVORS FROM SA. RATHER THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT TOLBERT'S MOTIVES WERE TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO A SERIOUS AFRICAN PROBLEM. DENNIS SAID THOSE LEADERS WHO WERE NEGATIVE CONCERNING TOLBERT'S INITIATIVE BASED THEIR POSITION PRIMARILY ON THEIR BELIEF THAT VORSTER HAD NOT CHANGED HIS SPOTS AND WAS SEEKING TO DIVIDE AFRICAN LEADERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.
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